IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel claims 2, 7, 14, and 15** without prejudice or disclaimer; **amend claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 12, and 13**; and **add claims 16-20** as follows:

SUB BI7

1. (*Currently amended*) A method of ~~centralised~~ centralized data position information storage and ~~utilisation~~ utilization comprising the steps of:

arranging a byte stream of data into partitioned logical data;

storing data position information relating to said logical data in a reserve storage area;

transferring said information from said reserve storage area to a ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area, wherein said ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area is configured to store said information relating to substantially all said partitioned logical data; and

~~utilising said information in said centralised storage area to locate a~~ locating target data ~~being~~ that is part of said logical data by applying a search algorithm to said data position information stored in said centralized storage area, said search algorithm being configured to locate said target data.

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2. (*Canceled*)

3. (*Currently amended*) The method as claimed in any one of ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim **1**, wherein said logical data comprises:

records and filemarks; wherein said ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area ~~is configured to store~~ stores data position information relating to said records and said filemarks in a data table, the locating step including reading from the data table the stored position information relating to said records and said filemarks.

4. (*Currently amended*) The method as claimed in claim **1**, wherein said ~~centralized is~~ centralized storage area ~~configured to store~~ stores logical data position information relating to a plurality of selected logical data groups, the locating step including reading the stored logical data position information relating to the plurality of selected logical data groups.

5. (*Currently amended*) A method of storing and ~~utilising~~ utilizing data position information on a tape data storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

arranging a byte stream of data into partitioned logical ~~data and~~ data;

recording said logical data onto a length of tape;

storing data position information relating to said logical data in a reserve storage area;

transferring said information from said reserve storage area to a ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area located within

said tape device, wherein said ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area ~~is configured to store~~ stores said information relating to substantially all said partitioned logical data; and

~~utilising said information in said centralised storage area to locate a~~ locating target data on said tape~~,~~ by applying a search algorithm to said data position information stored in the centralized storage area, said search algorithm being configured to locate said target data;

determining the required transporting of said logical data relative to a read head to enable said target data to be read; said target data being part of said logical data; and

reading said target data by using ~~a~~ the read head when the logical data is at the read head.

6.   (*Currently amended*) The method as claimed in claim **5** wherein the step of transferring said data position information comprises:

transferring said information to a data table within said ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area;

~~wherein~~ arranging said information within said data table ~~is arranged~~ so as to ~~minimise a~~ minimize the time period taken to locate said target data on said tape when ~~utilising~~ utilizing said information.

7.   (*Canceled*)

8. (*Currently amended*) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said data position information in said ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area relates to a plurality of selected data groups, said data groups being distributed ~~across said~~ along the length of the tape.

9. (*Currently amended*) The method as claimed in claim **5** further comprising the step of:

transferring said data position information ~~within~~ in said ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area to a reserve storage area.

10. (*Currently amended*) A data position information storage and ~~utilisation~~ utilization device comprising:

partitioned logical data distributed across a length of tape;

a ~~reserved~~ reserve storage area ~~to store~~ storing data position information relating to said logical data;

a ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area configured to store said information received from said reserve storage area, said ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area being configured to store information relating to substantially all said partitioned logical data; ~~and~~

a search algorithm ~~to locate a~~ for determining the location of target data on said tape; and

a read head configured to read said logical data on said tape;

~~wherein~~ said device ~~is~~ <u>being</u> operable, in response to a request for said target data, to locate said target data on said tape ~~using said~~ <u>in response to (a)</u> information in said ~~centralised~~ centralized storage area <u>and (b) the target data location determined by the search algorithm,</u> and to read said target data <u>by</u> using said read head.

11. A device as claimed in claim **10** wherein said reserve storage area is located on at least one portion of said tape.

12. A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said reserve storage area is <u>in</u> a cartridge memory.

13. A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said ~~centralised~~ <u>centralized</u> storage area is located substantially within a tape drive~~, said tape drive being configured with~~ <u>including</u> said read head.

14. (*Canceled*)

15. (*Canceled*)

16. (*New*) The method of claim **1** wherein the reserve storage area is volatile memory external to the tape, and erasing the volatile memory in response to the tape being removed from a device for reading the tape.

17. (*New*) The device of claim **10** wherein the reserve storage area is volatile memory external to the tape.

18. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the tape includes plural parallel tracks and the algorithm derives a physical target position for a track different from the track where the head is positioned in response to indications of logical current and logical target positions and causes the head to move the physical target position without going to a beginning of wrap or an end of wrap.

19. (New) The device of claim 10 wherein the tape includes plural parallel tracks and the algorithm is arranged to derive a physical target position for a track different from the track where the head is positioned in response to indications of logical current and logical target positions to cause the head to move the physical target position without going to a beginning of wrap or an end of wrap.

20. (New) The device of claim 19 wherein the reserve storage area is volatile memory external to the tape.